

Date: July 31, 2015

Memo To: Town of Bluffton Town Council; Don Ryan Center for Innovation Board of Directors; Marc Orlando, Town Manager

From: David Nelems, Don Ryan Center for Innovation Executive

Director

**RE: JULY 2015 DON RYAN CENTER FOR INNOVATION STATUS REPORT** 

#### Typical Two weeks.

## **CENTER OPERATIONS**

- Continuing to research and apply for grants.
- Continuing to work with SmartMarketing to promote the DRCI.
- Continuing work on DRCI Golf Event meetings every two weeks.
- PR Coordination with Debbie Szpanka.
- Finalizing a membership program to allow more people to become "benefactors" of the DRCI with the purchase of an annual membership. The goal is to roll this program out in August. This will be another step in being more financially independent of the Town.
- Finalizing the Alumni program.
- Approved several new submissions to LowcountryWORKS.com.
- Working on logistics for a graduation event in the next six weeks.
- Saw the Clemson MOU executed by the Town Manager. Documents sent to Clemson for their signature.
- Meeting with Debbie Szpanka and Lucy Rosen
  of Smart Marketing regarding a "speaking and fundraising tour".
- Participated in a **fundraising "call-a-thon"** for the DRCI Golf Event with Matt Green.
- Spent the week of July 27<sup>th</sup> as an internal "work week". Only three outside meetings. These weeks allow us to catch up on large and small issues and execute plans.

### **INNOVATORS**

Kickoff meetings for the three new companies in the DRCI.

Orange= Innovator Meetings. Purple= DRCI Operations
Green=Planning. Yellow= Town Operations





- Currently there are 10 innovators in the Center. We now have 12 graduates.
- Met with every innovator at least once (some multiple times) during the month. A lot
  of progress with each company.
- Numerous calls/video conferences with Clemson.
- Met with two potential innovators.
- Attended trade show in **Orlando with Taylor Offshore**.

### **OUTREACH AND STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIPS**

- Dinner with Amy Love, Mayor Sulka, Al Spain and Matt Green from SC Dept. of Innovation.
- Meeting with Bluffton Chamber of Commerce.
- Meeting with HHI EDC regarding an "accelerator" on the island. I have been asked to present the DRCI to the HHI EDC Board in August.

# **TOWN OF BLUFFTON OPERATIONS**

- Presented at Quarterly Town Council Workshop.
- Attended Town Council meeting.
- Attended Senior Staff meetings.
- Various meetings with Town Manager.
- Meetings with Tommy Sunday from IT.

# **PRESS**

- Front-page article in Bluffton Today about our push for sustainability.
- Bluffton Today editorial about importance of the DRCI.
- Segment on WTOC.
- Front-page story on LowcountryWORKS in The Bluffton Sun.



